

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, an electronic components list being predefined, the electronic components list comprising maintenance-intensive components of the technical system in which each failure of a component of the components list leads to a failure of the system, the method comprising the following steps carried out using an electronic data processing system:

acquiring of a setpoint MTBF value for each component of the components list,
summing of all reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values acquired for the components of the components list, and

using a reciprocal value of the sum of the reciprocal values as a mean time period predicted between two failures of the technical system.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising:

additionally acquiring a setpoint MTTR value for each component of the components list, and

calculating of a prediction of a mean time period for fault recovery in the technical system as a weighted mean of the acquired setpoint MTTR values of the components of the components list, the reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values of the components of the components list being used as weighting factors.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein when the setpoint MTTR value of at least one component is acquired the following steps are carried out:

acquiring of a setpoint MRT value and of a setpoint MTD value of this component,
and

using the sum of the setpoint MRT value and setpoint MTD value of this
component as the setpoint MTTR value of this component.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method according to claim 23 wherein the components
list is valid for a category of technical systems which carry out the same functions, the
prediction is made for a plurality of systems of the category, and a comparison of the
predicted failure frequencies and down times of the plurality of systems is generated.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 26 wherein a partial
comparison of the predicted failure frequencies and down times in the plurality of systems is
generated for each component of the components list during the generation of the
comparison and is inserted into the comparison.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein, for each
component of the components list,
actual times at which one of the components fails are logged, and
the one component is compared with the acquired setpoint MTBF value.

Claim 29 (canceled):

Claim 30 (canceled):

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising
procuring the technical system.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising using
the mean time period to be predicted between two failures to predict maintenance issues of
the technical system.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising using the mean time period to be predicted between two failures to predict costs of maintaining the technical system.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising comparing the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the technical system to a mean time period to be predicted between two failures of a second technical system.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 34 further comprising deriving technical improvement possibilities from the comparison of the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the technical system and the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the second technical system.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising selecting the technical system or the second technical system and concluding a contract with the supplier of the selected technical system.

Claim 37 (canceled):

Claim 38 (new): A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, an electronic components list being predefined, the electronic components list comprising maintenance-intensive components of the technical system in which each failure of a component of the components list leads to a failure of the system, the method comprising the steps of:
acquiring of a setpoint MTBF value for each component of the components list,
summing of all reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values acquired for the components of the components list, and

using a reciprocal value of the sum of the reciprocal values as a mean time period predicted between two failures of the technical system.

Claim 39 (new): The computer program product of claim 38, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, the method comprising the further steps of:

 additionally acquiring a setpoint MTTR value for each component of the components list, and

 calculating of a prediction of a mean time period for fault recovery in the technical system as a weighted mean of the acquired setpoint MTTR values of the components of the components list, the reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values of the components of the components list being used as weighting factors.

Claim 40 (new): The computer program product of claim 39, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, wherein when step of acquiring the setpoint MTTR value of at least one component is performed, the following steps are carried out:

 acquiring of a setpoint MRT value and of a setpoint MTD value of this component, and

 using the sum of the setpoint MRT value and setpoint MTD value of this component as the setpoint MTTR value of this component.

Claim 41 (new): The computer program product of claim 38, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, wherein the components list is valid for a category of technical systems which carry out the same functions, the prediction is made for

a plurality of systems of the category, and a comparison of the predicted failure frequencies and down times of the plurality of systems is generated.

Claim 42 (new): The computer program product of claim 41, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, wherein a partial comparison of the predicted failure frequencies and down times in the plurality of systems is generated for each component of the components list during the generation of the comparison and is inserted into the comparison.

Claim 43 (new): The computer program product of claim 38, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, wherein, for each component of the components list, actual times at which one of the components fails are logged, and the one component is compared with the acquired setpoint MTBF value.

Claim 44 (new): The computer program product of claim 39, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, further comprising using the mean time period to be predicted between two failures to predict maintenance issues of the technical system.

Claim 45 (new): The computer program product of claim 39, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, further comprising using the mean time period to be predicted between two failures to predict costs of maintaining the technical system.

Claim 46 (new): The computer program product of claim 39, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, further comprising comparing the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the technical system to a mean time period to be predicted between two failures of a second technical system.

Claim 47 (new): The computer program product of claim 39, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code adapted to be executed to implement a method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, further comprising deriving technical improvement possibilities from the comparison of the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the technical system and the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the second technical system.

Claim 48 (new): An apparatus for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, an electronic components list being predefined, the electronic components list comprising maintenance-intensive components of the technical system in which each failure of a component of the components list leads to a failure of the system, comprising:
means for acquiring of a setpoint MTBF value for each component of the components list,
means for summing of all reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values acquired for the components of the components list, and
means for using a reciprocal value of the sum of the reciprocal values as a mean time period predicted between two failures of the technical system.

Claim 49 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 48 further comprising:
means for additionally acquiring a setpoint MTTR value for each component of the components list, and

means for calculating of a prediction of a mean time period for fault recovery in the technical system as a weighted mean of the acquired setpoint MTTR values of the components of the components list, the reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values of the components of the components list being used as weighting factors.

Claim 50 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 wherein the means for additionally acquiring a setpoint MTTR value for each component of the components list also acquires a setpoint MRT value and of a setpoint MTD value of each component and uses the sum of the setpoint MRT value and setpoint MTD value of each component as the setpoint MTTR value of each component.

Claim 51 (new): The apparatus according to claim 48 wherein the components list is valid for a category of technical systems which carry out the same functions, the prediction is made for a plurality of systems of the category and further comprising means for generating a comparison of the predicted failure frequencies and down times of the plurality of systems.

Claim 52 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 51 wherein the means for generating also generates a partial comparison of the predicted failure frequencies and down times in the plurality of systems for each component of the components list during the generation of the comparison and the partial comparison is inserted into the comparison.

Claim 53 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 48 further comprising means for logging, for each component of the components list, actual times at which one of the components fails are logged and means for comparing the one component with the acquired setpoint MTBF value.

Claim 54 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 further comprising means for using the mean time period to be predicted between two failures to predict maintenance issues of the technical system.

Claim 55 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 further comprising means for using the mean time period to be predicted between two failures to predict costs of maintaining the technical system.

Claim 56 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 further comprising means for comparing the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the technical system to a mean time period to be predicted between two failures of a second technical system.

Claim 57 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 56 further comprising means for deriving technical improvement possibilities from the comparison of the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the technical system and the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the second technical system.